There are various tariff plans offered by the Cellular operators and the airtime charges vary depending on the tariff plan. As such it is not possible to make a meaningful comparison between the rates of a STD call made through a Cellular phone and a STD call made through a Fixed line telephone of BSNL. However, BSNL has now reduced STD rates on Fixed Telephone with effect from 07-03-2003 at par with BSNL Cellular Telephone. Now, BSNL STD rates are same for Fixed and Cellular Telephones.

(c) Does not arise in view of (a) and (b) above.

Employment in IT Industry

†2334. SHRI KAPIL SIBAL:
SHRI RAJIV RANJAN SINGH 'LALAN':

Will the Minister of COMMUNICATIONS AND INFORMATION TECHNOLOGY be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that about 6,50,000 persons are expected to get employment by March 2003 in various sectors under Information Technology Industry in the country;

(b) if so, the details thereof;

(c) whether productivity of the persons employed in above industry has also been assessed; and

(d) if so, the assessment of per capita monthly productivity during the year 2002-03?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF COMMUNICATIONS AND INFORMATION TECHNOLOGY (SHRI SU. THIRUNAVUKKARASAR): (ā) Yes, Sir.

(b) It is estimated that about 2,05,000 persons will be working in the IT software and services export industry; nearly 1,60,000 persons in IT enabled services sector; 25,000 persons in the domestic software sector and over 2,60,000 persons in user organizations.

(c) and (d) No such assessment has been made by the Government. According to NASSCOM, total revenues of Indian Software and Services Industry in 2002-2003 are estimated to be Rs. 60,000 crores, comprising

†Original notice of the question was received in Hindi.

exports of Rs. 47,500 crores and domestic revenues of Rs. 12,500 crores.

Guidelines for Payment of Telephone Dues

†2335. SHRI ANIL SHARMA: Will the Minister of COMMUNICATIONS AND INFORMATION TECHNOLOGY be pleased to state:

(a) the guidelines issued by Government for payment of telephone dues in rural and hilly areas;

(b) whether it is a fact that telephone subscribers have to travel for 8 to 10 kilometres for payment of their telephone dues; and

(c) if so, the telephone exchanges in Himachal Pradesh where people have to face such difficulties alongwith the remedial action being taken by Government in this regard?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF COMMUNICATIONS AND INFORMATION TECHNOLOGY (SHRIMATI SUMITRA MAHAJAN): (a) Since 1.10.2000, the Government is no longer providing telephone services; these are done by public sector undetakings, Bharat Sanchar Nigam Limited and Mahanagar Telephone Nigam Limited and private operators. The existing guidelines of BSNL and MTNL envisage collection of telephone bills, including in the hilly and rural areas, through their cash counters, telegraph offices, authorized nationalized banks, scheduled commercial banks and authorized post offices, subject to operational feasibility. A voluntary deposit scheme and the facility of sending cheques by post are also available.

(b) and (c) No information about the distance travelled by individual subscribers to the various authorized bill collection centres is being maintained by BSNL. However, by the facilities of the voluntary deposit scheme and sending cheques by post available to all subscribers, the problem of their travelling long distances has been taken care of to a large extent.

Disconnection of Telephones in Kargil Martyr's Village

†2336. SHRI RAMACHANDRA KHUNTIA: Will the Minister of COMMUNICATIONS AND INFORMATION TECHNOLOGY be pleased to state:

†Original notice of the question was received in Hindi.